BILL PASCRELL, JR. 9TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

2409 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515 (202) 225-5751 (202) 225-5782 FAX

ROBERT A. ROE FEDERAL BUILDING 200 FEDERAL PLAZA, SUITE 500 PATERSON, NJ 07505 (973) 523-5152 (973) 523-0637 FAX

> http://pascrell.house.gov bill.pascrell@mail.house.gov



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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

June 29, 2021

Joe Gaeta, Assistant Attorney General U.S. Department of Justice Office of Legislative Affairs 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20530-0001

BJA FY 2021 Local Law Enforcement Crime Gun Intelligence Center Integration Initiative

To Whom It May Concern,

As Chair of the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus, I am pleased to offer my support for the application that the City of Paterson has submitted to the Law Enforcement Crime Gun Intelligence Initiative to begin a Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC). This application is one of my top priorities for funding in the 9th Congressional District of New Jersey.

The Paterson Police department (PPD) is responsible for protecting the second most densely populated city in the United States and the third largest population in the State of New Jersey. Plagued by gun violence, street gangs, open-air drug markets, poverty and territorial disputes, the City of Paterson is disproportionately impacted by crime. For the year of 2018, Paterson accounted for 53% percent of all automobile thefts, 56% of all burglaries, 70% percent of all robberies, 72% of all rapes and 81% of all murders in Passaic County. Listed as one of the "six major urban centers in New Jersey" the City of Paterson is recognized by the Federal Bureau of Investigations as one of the most dangerous cities in the United States. Short their full compliment of police officers, the remaining currently employed struggle to provide full service to the people of Paterson. With a clearly defined set of objectives provided in their proposal, the allocation of this grant would help the City of Paterson make great strides in the ongoing effort to limit gun violence in the Silk City. This CGIC would be the first in the State of New Jersey and the only center located above Baltimore Maryland, together we can break ground in the City of Paterson and improve the quality of life for the people of the Ninth Congressional District.

Throughout my 24 years in the United States House of Representatives, I have fought at every opportunity to make sure our police officers have the resources they need to protect our citizens. I understand that police departments such as Paterson's are an integral part of our emergency management system and require our utmost respect and assistance in their time of need. The City of Paterson is an area that is vulnerable to crime, and the urgency to provide safety for its citizens and first responders should not be overlooked.

I am pleased to support the Paterson Police Department's application and respectfully ask that you look favorably upon their request, within the boundaries of applicable rules and guidelines. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Member of Congress

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